

increased each year during the period from 1984 through 1992.

New case rates and death rates for HIV/AIDS are disproportionately higher for children of color than for White children. AIDS among Black and Hispanic adolescents accounted for approximately 83% of reported cases in 1997.

Hospitalizations for children with asthma have been increasing for most of the 1990's. Low-income children are more likely to suffer from asthma with the sharpest increases being among urban minority children. If trends continue, asthma will become one of the major childhood diseases of the 21st century.

#### CHILDHOOD NUTRITION

Teen obesity has more than doubled in the past 30 years. Next to smoking, obesity is the leading cause of preventable death and disease. Obesity continues to disproportionately affect poor youth and minority children because of poor diet and lack of exercise.

13.6 percent of all American children are overweight. Yet, 11.8 percent of low-income children experience moderate to severe hunger, compared with 1.9 percent of children in households with income above the poverty level.

Approximately 35 children each day are diagnosed with juvenile diabetes, which can lead to blindness, heart attack, kidney failure and amputations. Type 2 diabetes is increasingly high among minority children.

Before 1992, only 1 to 4% of children was diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes or other forms of diabetes. Now, reports indicate that up to 45% of children with newly diagnosed diabetes have Type 2 diabetes.

#### CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH

Currently, there are 13.7 million children in this country with a diagnosable mental health disorder, yet less than 20% of these children receive the treatment they need. At least one in five children and adolescents has a diagnosable mental, emotional, or behavioral problem that can lead to school failure, substance abuse, violence or suicide.

However, 75 to 80 percent of these children do not receive any services in the form of speciality treatment or some form of mental health intervention.

The White House and the U.S. Surgeon General have recognized that mental health needs to be a national priority in this nation's debate about comprehensive health care.

Suicide is the eighth leading cause of death in the United States, accounting for more than 1% of all deaths.

The National Mental Health Association reports that most people who commit suicide have a mental or emotional disorder. The most common is depression.

According to the 1999 Report of the U.S. Surgeon General, for young people 15–24 years old, suicide is the third leading cause of death behind intentional injury and homicide.

Persons under the age of 25 accounted for 15% of all suicides in 1997. Between 1980 and 1997, suicide rates for those 15–19 years old increased 11% and for those between the ages of 10–14, the suicide rates increased 99% since 1980.

More teenagers died from suicide than from cancer, heart disease, AIDS, birth defects, strokes, influenza and chronic lung disease combined.

Within every 1 hour and 57 minutes, a person under the age of 25 completes suicide.

Black male youth (ages 10–14) have shown the largest increase in suicide rates since 1980 compared to other youths groups by sex and ethnicity, increasing 276%.

Almost 12 young people between the ages of 15–24 die every day by suicide.

In a study of gay male and lesbian youth suicide, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services found lesbian and gay youth are two to six times more likely to attempt suicide than other youth and account for up to 30 percent of all completed teen suicides.

We must act to prevent states like Texas, California, and Louisiana from losing millions of dollars in federal funds which have been provided to insure our nation's uninsured poor children.

#### TRIBUTE TO CARL ROWAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to noted author and journalist Carl Rowan, who passed earlier this week and who devoted his life to working and fighting for equality and justice both here at home and abroad.

Carl Rowan was born in 1925 in Ravenscroft, Tennessee. Like many African Americans, he emerged from poverty in the segregated South during the depression. Undoubtedly, the trials and tribulations of Mr. Rowan's life, and which he overcame in his childhood, prepared him to excel as a leader and enabled him to climb the arduous ladder of success in his career. His life is a model which exemplified the continuous breaking of barriers which is truly noteworthy.

Mr. Rowan served as a commissioned officer in the United States Navy. And after his tenure of military service he studied at Oberlin College in Ohio and earned a master's degree in journalism from the University of Minnesota. In the late 1940s, Carl Rowan became one of the first African Americans to work for a major mainstream daily newspaper when he took a copy editing position at the Minneapolis Tribune.

Mr. Rowan was known among his contemporaries to possess integrity and an unwavering purpose to fight for justice. His sense of duty to uncover the truth, no matter what the cost, is not only noteworthy but honorable. Equipped with a tenacious journalistic pen, Carl Rowan courageously exposed racism.

His reporting on race relations led President Kennedy to appoint him Deputy Secretary of State, delegate to the United Nations during the Cuban missile crisis, and Ambassador to Finland. In 1964, President Johnson named him Director of the United States Information Agency. While serving in these capacities, Mr. Rowan's shrewd character

was admired by many, and his toughness was respected by all.

After his government service, Mr. Rowan continued to break barriers when he became a columnist for the Chicago Sun Times. During his illustrious career at the Sun Times he composed themes of reform and racial awareness, which touched the spirits of his dedicated readers. Unlike many of his colleagues, he dared to write about the unpopular, the controversial. Mr. Rowan's motto was: "I inform people and expose them to a point of view they otherwise wouldn't get. I work against the racial mindset of most of the media."

Indeed, Carl Rowan proved to be a watchdog who was in the forefront of civil rights in the media. This is why my friend and respected columnist, Vernon Jarrett, views Mr. Rowan as a role model who pioneered in the introduction of black content to major white newspapers.

□ 1915

Furthermore, Carl Rowan did not use his pen alone to make a difference. He was a staunch advocate of public service and philanthropy, as well. He created Project Excellence in 1987 to help and encourage black youth to finish high school and go on to college. To date, the fund has given \$79 million to Washington area youth.

Mr. Rowan was a good friend to many. His mark of excellence serves as a testament to what one can achieve. His undaunted literary voice will be sorely missed.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Carl Rowan for his remarkable career of serving our country. On this sad and unfortunate occasion, let us extend our deepest sympathy to his family, to his wife, Vivian, and his three children, Carl, Jr., Jeffrey, and Barbara, a man of distinction, a public servant who served not only his country but the world community well.

#### REDUCING NATIONAL DEBT AND ANNUAL INTEREST PAYMENTS BY BILLIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ADERHOLT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. METCALF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, does anyone believe that it would be possible to reduce our national debt by \$600 billion and reduce our annual interest payments by \$6 billion with no harm to anyone nor to any program? That sounds too good to be true, does it not? But it is true, it is simple, and it is possible.

Most people have little knowledge of how money systems work and are not aware that an honest money system would result in great savings to the